

## Nighttime electron density enhancements in East Asia Nighttime electron density enhancements in East Asia

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The critical frequency of F2-layer (foF2) and other ionosonde data observed at stations, Okinawa, Yamagawa, Kokubunji, Wakkanai, and Sanya in East Asia sector have been collected to study the nighttime behavior of ionospheric F layer at middle and low latitudes. Enhancements in nighttime electron density are frequently present at these stations in pre-midnight and post-midnight intervals. The results show obvious seasonal and solar activity dependencies in the pattern of the nighttime ionospheric electron density enhancements. The pre-midnight enhancements have larger occurrence probability in summer months than in winter months, and the post-midnight enhancements have an opposite trend: more likely in winter months than in summer months. Nighttime enhancement in electron density tends to occur under lower solar activity. Analysis reveals that the effect of neutral winds is in reasonable agreement with the seasonal and solar activity variations of the nighttime electron density enhancements.

Acknowledgements: Ionosonde data are provided from BNOSE of IGGCAS and National Institute of Information and Communications Technology. This research was supported by the projects of Chinese Academy of Sciences (KZZD-EW-01-3), National Key Basic Research Program of China (2012CB825604), and National Natural Science Foundation of China (41174137 and 41231065).

キーワード: ionosphere, nighttime enhancement, low latitude

Keywords: ionosphere, nighttime enhancement, low latitude